

**May 24, 2002**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS**

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and June 14, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District Office, located at 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon.

Issues to be addressed at the meeting include: wilderness access and the development of a cooperative management agreement, transportation, cultural resources, tribal concerns, proposed legislation update, Andrews/Steens Resource Management Plan update, Designated Federal Official update, Gap Reservoir Environmental Assessment, recreation/visitor days, recreation use monitoring, review of recommendations, and any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, and may contribute during public comment sessions scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on each meeting day. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment period will last no longer than thirty minutes, and each speaker may address the council for a maximum of five minutes. Information to be distributed to the SMAC

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is requested 10 days prior to the start of the SMAC meeting and should be sent to Rhonda Karges, BLM Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738.

Pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, the SMAC was established to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the boundary of the Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA), (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

The 12-member SMAC consists of the following members, listed in accordance with their specific representation:

- Vacant (No Financial Interest)
- Stacy Davies (Grazing Permittee)
- Alice Elshoff (Environmental Representative-Local)
- E. Ron Harding (Wild Horse Management)
- Thomas Harris, Chair (Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation)
- Wanda Johnson (Burns Paiute Tribe)
- Jason Miner (Fish and Recreational Fishing)
- Steve Purchase (State Government Liaison) (nonvoting member)
- Jerry Sutherland, Vice Chair (Environmental Representative-State)
- Thomas Wendel (Dispersed Recreation)
- Hoyt Wilson (Grazing Permittee)
- Cindy Witzel (Recreation Permit Holder)
- Harland Yriarte (Private Landowner)

The Designated Federal Official is Miles Brown, BLM Burns District, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager.

**For more information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District BLM Office, or call 541-573-4400, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**

**\*\*\*\*BLM\*\*\*\***